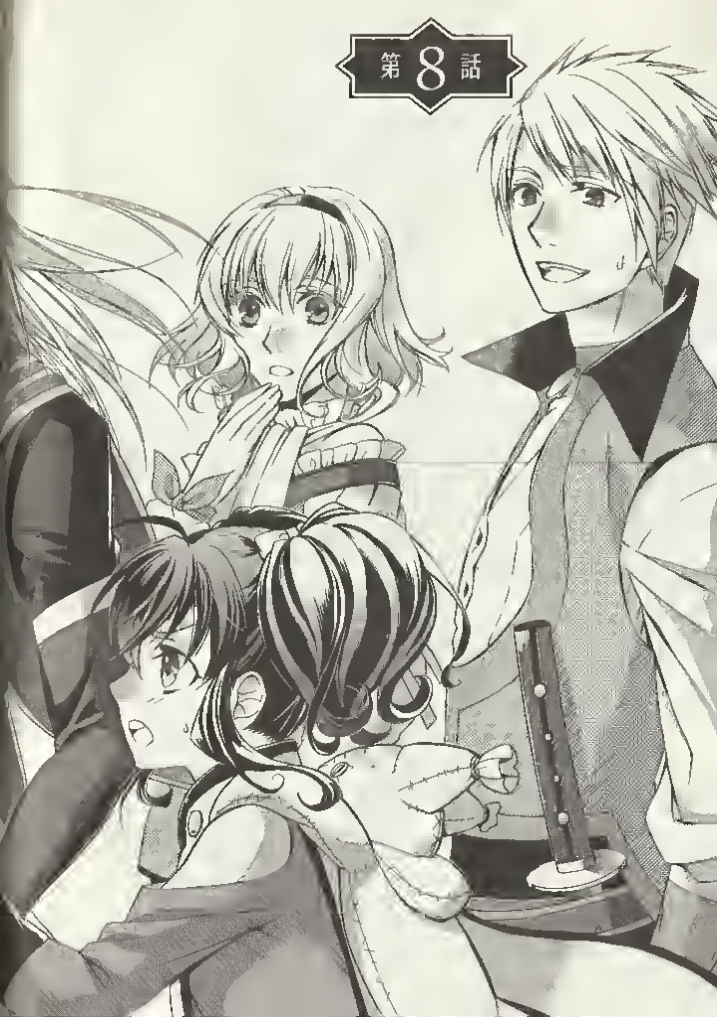
第8話

SCANS PROVIDED BY
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TRANSLATED AND SCANLATED BY
RANDOMSNARFLE
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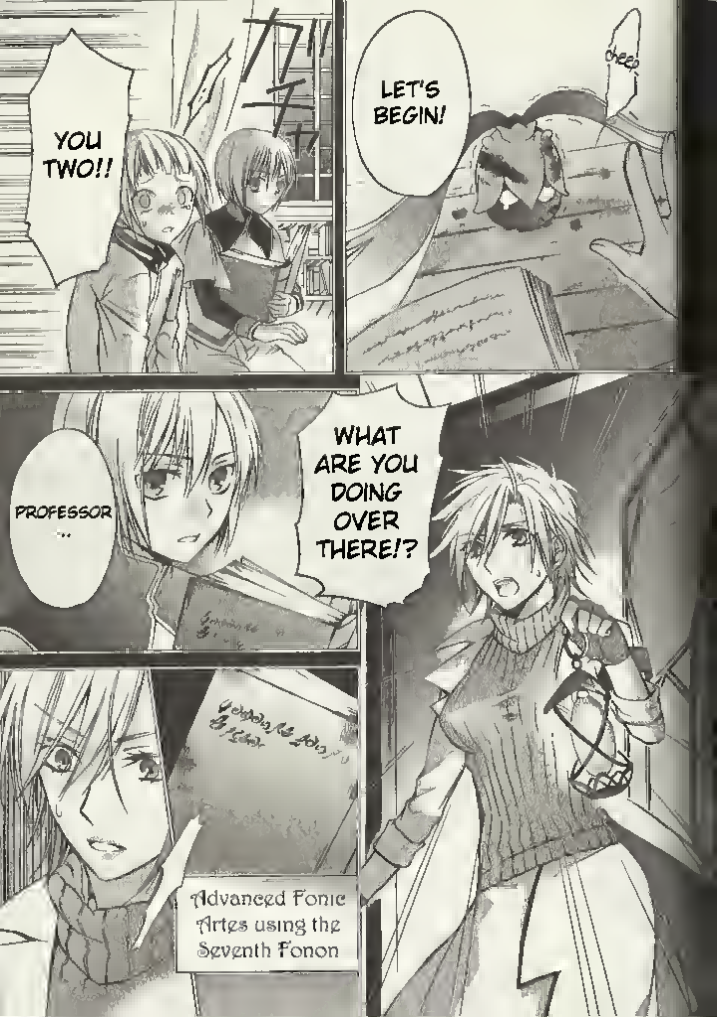
JADE!
TCH
WHAT IS THIS POWER...
I DIDN'T EVEN SEE THE ATTACK
YES...
SHE CAN'T POSSIBLY BE HUMAN.
第8話

IT'S BEEN AWHILE, JADE.
YOU USED TO BE SUCH A CUTE BOY...
NOW YOU LOOK SO SCARY.
.....
JADE...
YOU THREW ME AWAY, AND EVEN TRIED TO KILL ME, DIDN'T YOU?

DEFECTIVE REPLICA!
I WAS AN IMPERFECT FAILURE, AFTER ALL.
BUT THANKS TO THAT FON MACHINE SAPHIR BUILT, I'VE FINALLY STABILIZED.
NOW I'M PERFECT.
A PERFECT VERSION
OF YOUR PROFESSOR NEBILIM.

...AND WITH THAT...
...YES!

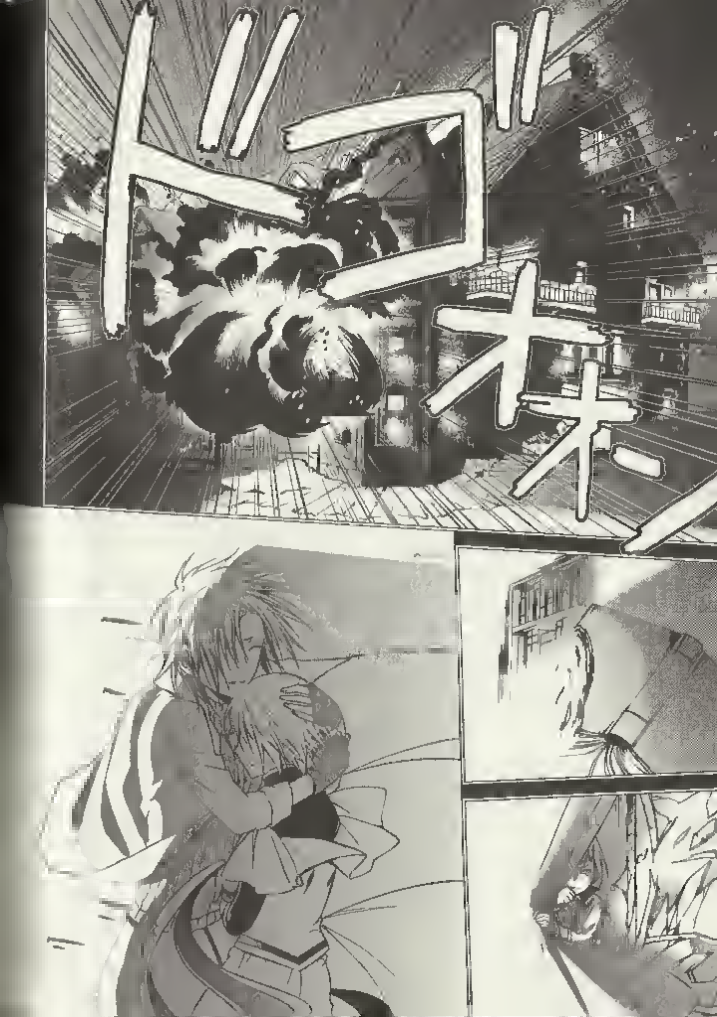

YOU TWO!!
LET'S BEGIN!
Sheep
PROFESSOR ...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE!?
Advanced Fonic Artes using the Seventh Fonon

...ADULTS ALWAYS SAY "CHILDREN CAN'T USE HIGH-LEVEL FONIC ARTES" BUT I CAN USE THEM.
IT'S DANGEROUS FOR SOMEONE WITHOUT ANY TRAINING TO USE THE SEVENTH FONON!
STOP!
IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR ME TO USE THE SEVENTH FONON.
BUT THEY KNOW IF SOMEONE WHO CAN'T CONTROL IT TRIES TO USE THE SEVENTH FONON, IT CAN RUN OF CONTROL...
I ALREADY TOLD YOU. THERE HASN'T BEEN ENOUGH RESEARCH ON THE SEVENTH FONON.

...SUCH SEVERE INJURIES.
IT'S NO GOOD. I DIDN'T MAKE IT IN TI—
I'LL SAVE IT!!
CURE

JADE!
I CAN CONTROL THE FONIC ARTE PERFECTLY!!
O HEALING MELODY OF DIVINE MERCY...
REVITALIZE!

THE FONONS ARE BECOMING UNSTABLE!
!?
STOP THE ARTE, JADE!
JADE ...!?
UGH ...
GUH ...


ドゴォ
ォ
ォ

PRO...
FESSOR
...?
PRO...
TGH
HEY.

WOULDN'T YOU AGREE, JADE?
SHUT UP!!

HOW CAN YOU CALL YOURSELF PERFECT!?
THERE'S NO WAY YOU'RE PERFECT!
AND YOU KILL HIM WITHOUT EVEN BLINKING AN EYE?
DIST WAS YOUR ORIGINAL'S PUPIL!
LUKE...
AND WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

I'VE BECOME PERFECT.
SO I AM NEBILIM!
AND THAT MAKES ME THE ORIGINAL!
URK!
... YOU'RE WRONG.

YOU CAN'T BE THE ORIGINAL!
カキーン
YOU'RE WRONG!!
YOU MAY LOOK LIKE THE ORIGINAL NEBILIM
BUT YOU'RE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON!
EVERYONE WOULD SUFFER
OTHER-WISE

BECAUSE OF YOU!!
NOW DIE!
GUHH!!
WAIT!
WHAT IS THIS FOOLISH-NESS?

TRY USING THE PLANETARY FONIC ARTE.
IF YOU REALLY ARE A PERFECT VERSION OF PROFESSOR NEBILIM, YOU CAN DO IT, RIGHT?
!?
JADE! WHAT ARE YOU...
LUKE!
...ARE YOU TRYING TO PROVOKE ME, JADE?
AH, SO IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR A REPLICA?

YOU'LL REGRET IT.
SHALL YOU ADMIT IT, THEN?

MOTHER AULDRANT
O WRATH OF THE HEAVENS
AND CRIES OF THE EARTH...
NATALIA! WAIT!
COLONEL! JUST WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO!?

AHHHHH!!
GUUH
THAT'S ...!
LET FALL THE SWORDS OF ...!?
THE FON MACHINE SUSTAINING NEBILIM IS AT IT'S LIMIT.
THE FON MACHINE CAN'T HANDLE THE POWER OF THE PLANETARY FONIC ARTE.

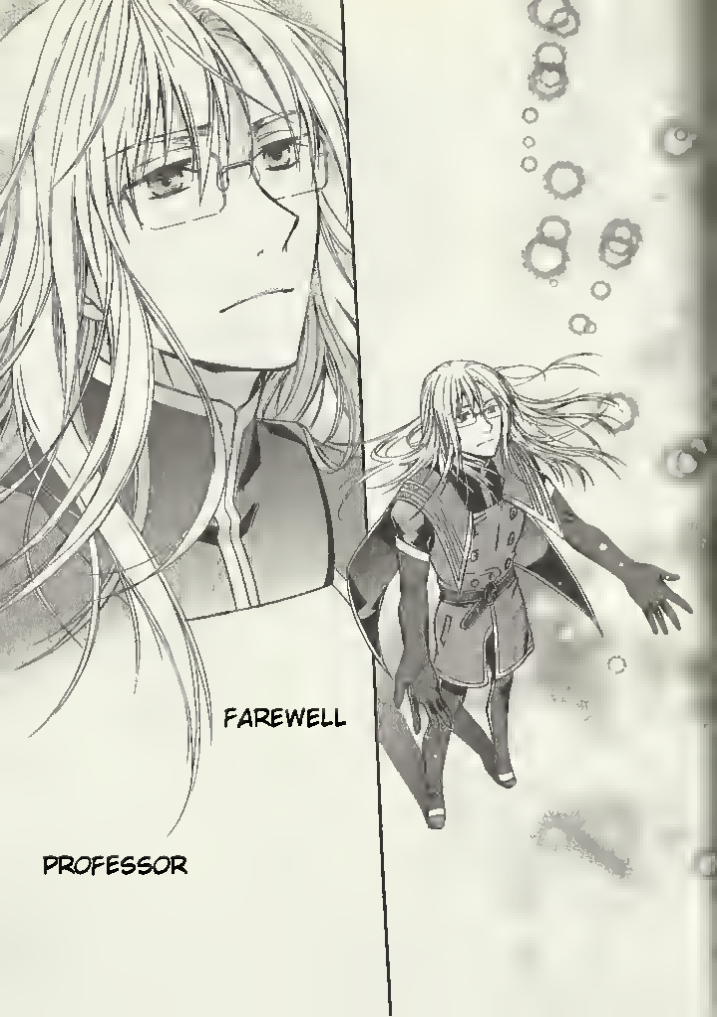
IF THAT FON MACHINE BREAKS...
M-MY BODY...
AH
WHY!? I THOUGHT I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE PERFECT!?
AH HH HH H!!
I'M...!!

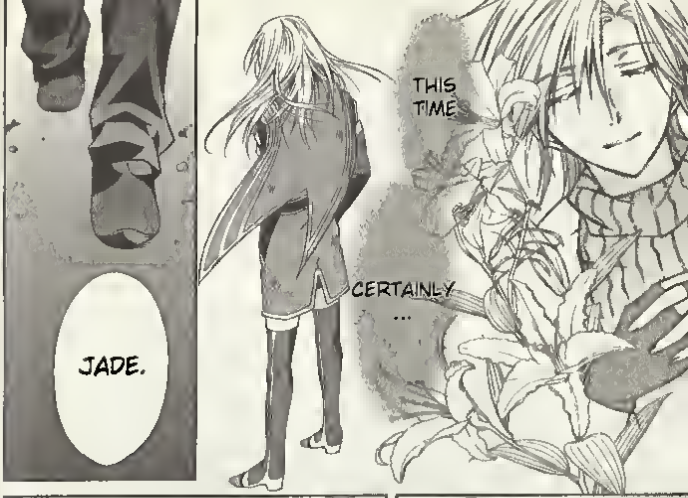
...THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A PERFECT EXISTENCE IN THIS WORLD.
PEOPLE CHANGE.
AND ALL THINGS MUST COME TO AN END...

"ALL LIVING THINGS WILL DIE."
"HUMANS AND MONSTERS BOTH WILL EVENTUALLY DIE."
"BUT JADE..."
"IT'S PRECISELY BECAUSE THERE IS A LIMIT TO LIFE THAT PEOPLE ARE CAPABLE OF CHANGE."

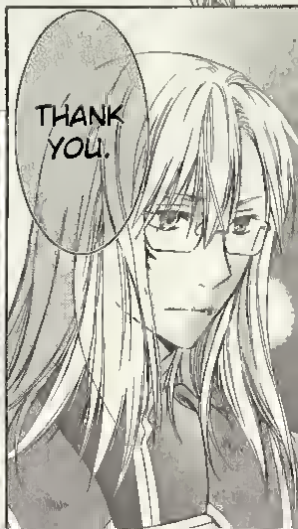
BECAUSE THEY KNOW EVERYTHING WILL END SOMEDAY
THEY CHANGE.
AND BECAUSE PEOPLE CHANGE
THEY CAN LIVE.

THEY'RE HUMAN... JUST LIKE YOU.


FAREWELL
PROFESSOR


JADE.
THIS TIME
CERTAINLY ...

...HUMAN.
FOR CALLING HER


THANK YOU.

YOU WERE A STUPID, ROTTEN, FRIENDLESS, UGLY, SNOTTY, POOR EXCUSE FOR A HUMAN BEING, BUT...
SOB
DIST...
YOU SAVED MY LIFE.
THANK YOU... AND I HOPE I AVENGED YOUR-
NNRGH ...
!?
THAT HURTS... DON'T KICK ME, JADE...

...I'M STILL NOT SURE WHETHER OR NOT THAT GUY IS HUMAN, THOUGH...
.....
MIRACLE HAMMER!!
ドゴッ
GYAH!
I FOUND YOU, JADE!
MIEU?

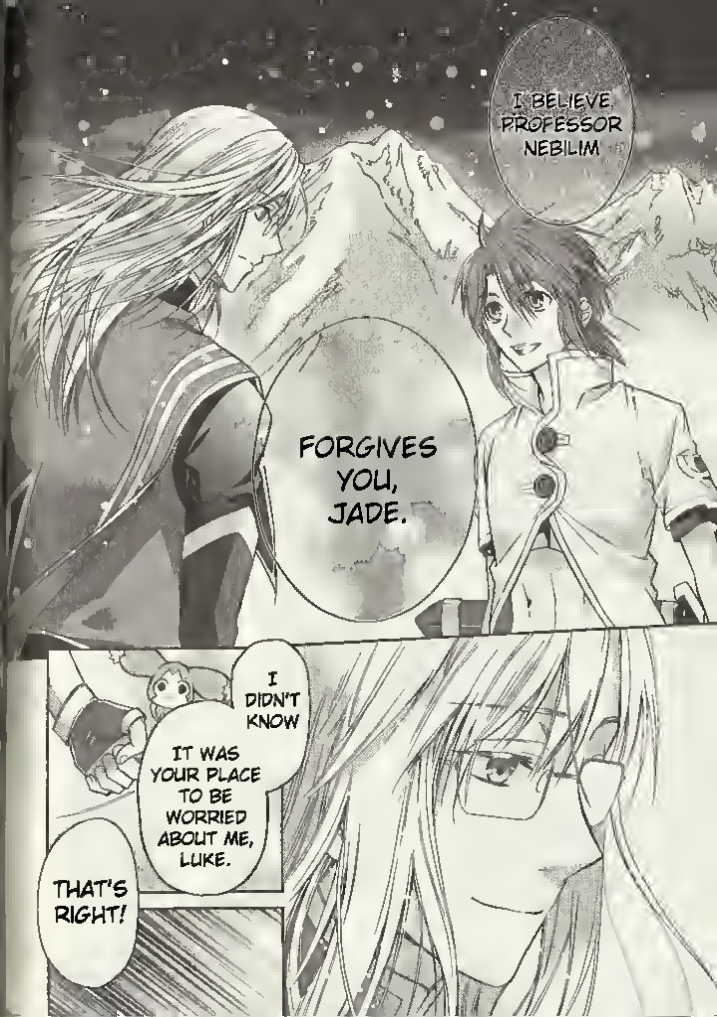
MIEUUUU!?
mieuu.
I'M AFRAID I'M NOT YOUR MASTER.
HERE.
OOF!
I'VE GOT A MESSAGE FROM NEPHRY.
IT LOOKS LIKE DIST IS AWAKE.
MY, THAT'S BAD NEWS, INDEED.
HEY NOW

ARE YOU REPORTING TO PROFESSOR NEBILIM?
YES.
REPORTING TO, AND APOLOGIZING.
APOLOGIZING ...
YOU MEAN ABOUT THE PAST?
THAT'S RIGHT.
I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE HER SORROW.
EVEN THOUGH I THOUGHT I KNEW EVERYTHING.
THOUGH YOU COULD ALSO SAY FOR MY OWN STUPIDITY.

EVEN THOUGH IT WAS THE PROFESSOR'S FEELINGS OF REMORSE THAT BROUGHT HER HERE...
I...
...WE NEVER EVEN REALIZED IT.
I THOUGHT I COULD DO ANYTHING...
EVEN WITH THE WEIGHT OF HER PAST HELD OVER HER SHOULDERS
THE PROFESSOR WAS ALWAYS SMILING

...BUT IT WAS FUN, WASN'T IT?
?

YEAH!
IT MUST HAVE BEEN FUN. FOR PROFESSOR NEBILIM.
COMPARING MYSELF TO THOSE TWO IS A FAR MORE COMPLICATED MATTER...
IT'S JUST A GUESS, BUT IT WAS PROBABLY REALLY INTERESTING, RIGHT?
AFTER ALL, EMPEROR PEONY AND DIST WERE ALL A PART OF YOUR CHILDHOOD.
THAT'S WHY...
ISN'T JUST SOME PLACE WHERE YOU CAN SEE MT. RONEAL
THAT'S WHY THIS PLACE
AND I BET THAT MEANT MORE TO HER THAN THE PLANETARY FONIC ARTE EXPERIMENT EVER DID.

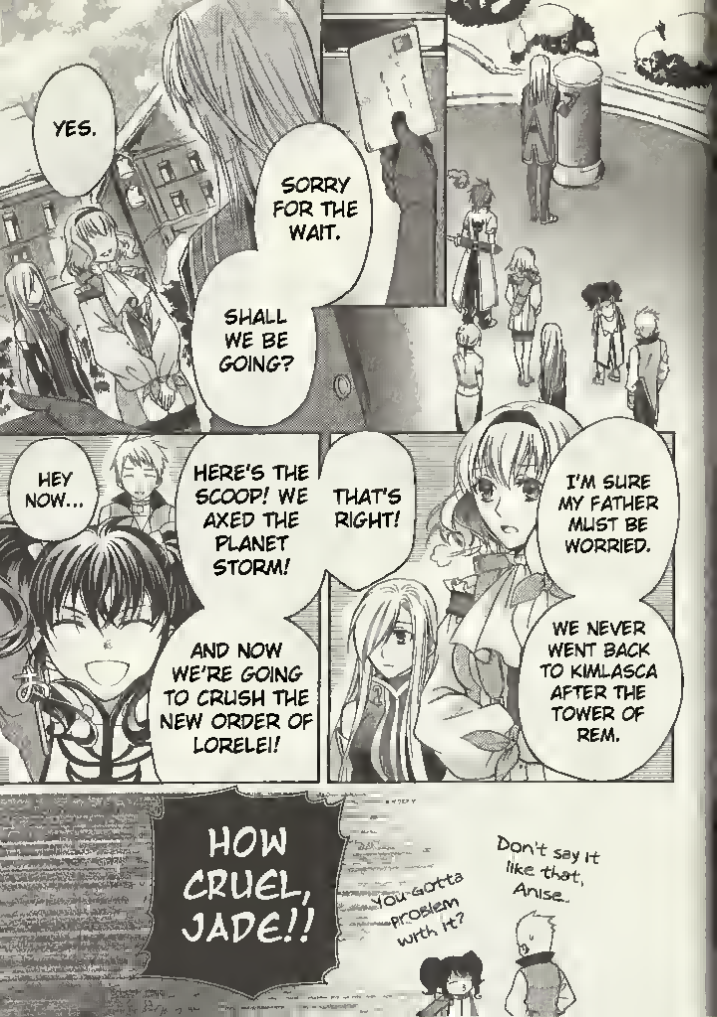

I BELIEVE PROFESSOR NEBILIM
FORGIVES YOU, JADE.
I DIDN'T KNOW
IT WAS YOUR PLACE TO BE WORRIED ABOUT ME, LUKE.
THAT'S RIGHT!

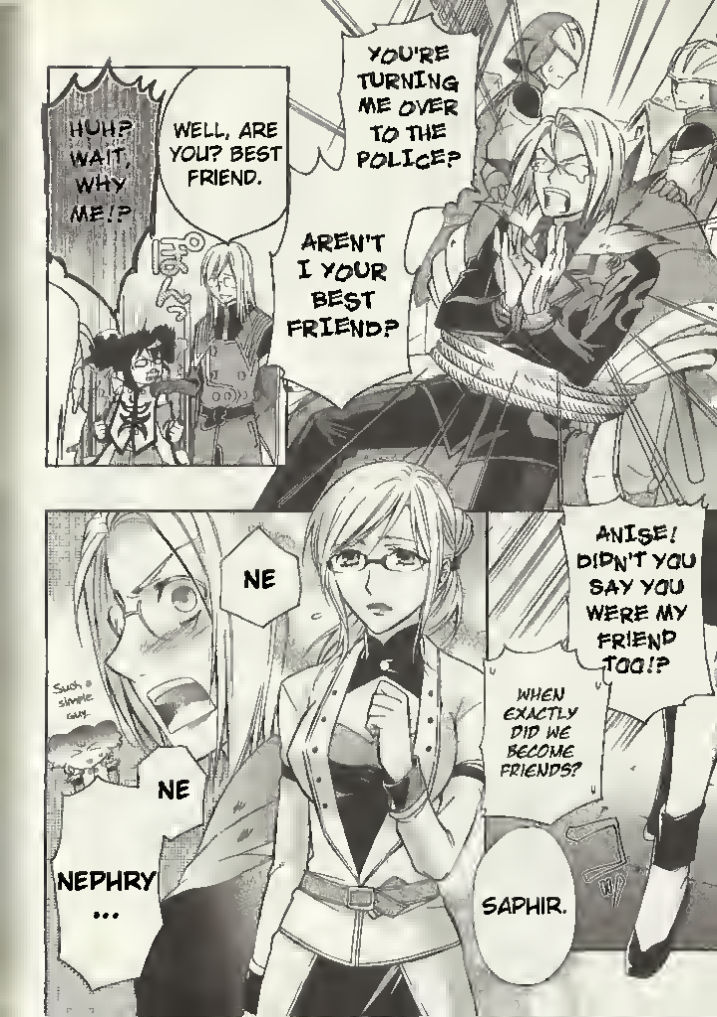
...I
I'M ALWAYS WRAPPED UP IN MY OWN PROBLEMS.
!
SO HANG IN THERE FOR ME.
...
WELL.
I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT.
AHHH
WITH THIS, IT FEELS LIKE THE PARENT AND CHILD HAVE SWITCHED PLACES!
AND WHICH PARENT IS THAT?

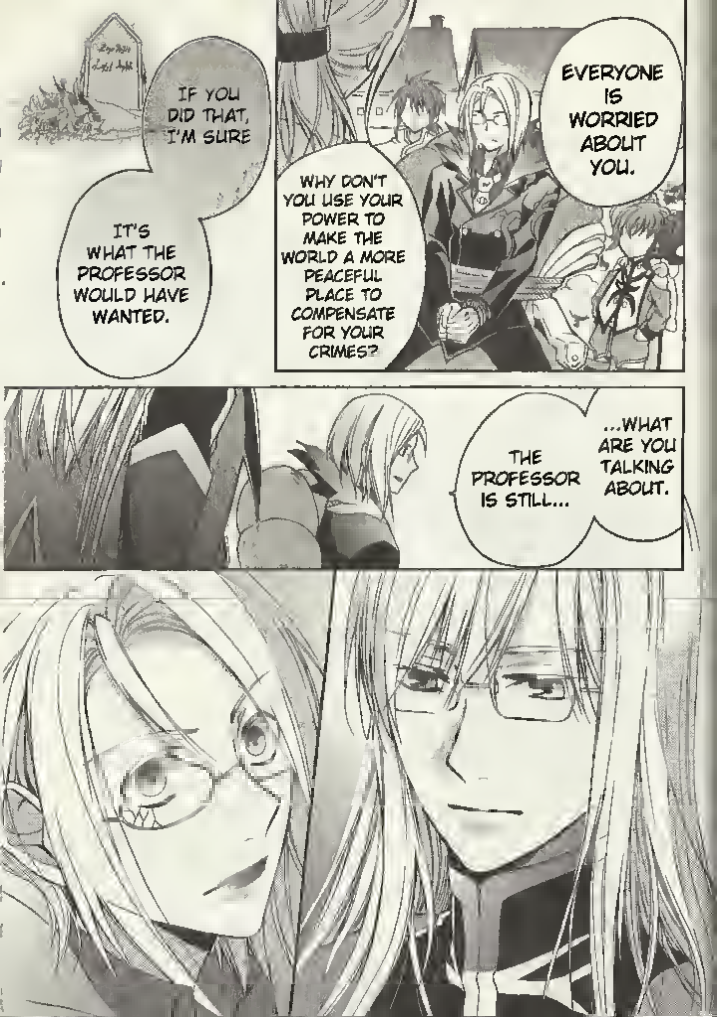
I WASN'T THE ONE WHO CREATED YOU.
THEN
HOW ABOUT "TEACHER"?
AS SOMEONE I'VE LEARNED A LOT FROM.
THAT'S RIGHT.
THE PRO-FESSOR
TRIED TO TEACH US ABOUT LIFE.

ON THIS LAND
FACE TO FACE WITH HER OWN SINS
...MY, MY.
YOU KNOW I DON'T TAKE ON APPRENTICES. I DON'T IMPART KNOWLEDGE.
THAT'S OKAY.
I'LL STEAL IT ON MY OWN.
BUT
THE TIME LEFT FOR THAT IS...

LUKE
...NO LONGER UP TO YOU.
ABOVE ALL ELSE
I'M ANGRY AT MYSELF.
I'M THE ONE WHO DOESN'T WANT THINGS TO CHANGE.
AND THAT'S ...
...NO.
AND IN THAT CASE ...


YES.
SORRY FOR THE WAIT.
SHALL WE BE GOING?
I'M SURE MY FATHER MUST BE WORRIED.
WE NEVER WENT BACK TO KIMLASCA AFTER THE TOWER OF REM.
THAT'S RIGHT!
HEY NOW...
HERE'S THE SCOOP! WE AXED THE PLANET STORM!
AND NOW WE'RE GOING TO CRUSH THE NEW ORDER OF LORELEI!
HOW CRUEL, JADE!!
You gotta problem with it?
Don't say it like that, Anise.


YOU'RE TURNING ME OVER TO THE POLICE?
AREN'T I YOUR BEST FRIEND?
WELL, ARE YOU? BEST FRIEND.
HUH? WAIT, WHY ME!?
ANISE! DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WERE MY FRIEND TOO!?
WHEN EXACTLY DID WE BECOME FRIENDS?
SAPHIR.
NE
Such a simple guy.
NE
NEPHRY ...


EVERYONE IS WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
WHY DON'T YOU USE YOUR POWER TO MAKE THE WORLD A MORE PEACEFUL PLACE TO COMPENSATE FOR YOUR CRIMES?
IF YOU DID THAT, I'M SURE
IT'S WHAT THE PROFESSOR WOULD HAVE WANTED.
...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT.
THE PROFESSOR IS STILL...

I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE.
I SUPPOSE IF THIS FOOLISH WORLD IS REALLY IN NEED OF MY POWER
SAPHIR...
...HAH.
Since I'm a genius after all! Hahah!
HM?
LUKE.
THANK YOU.
HUH?
THIS IS ALL THANKS TO YOU.

AFTER ALL, YOU'VE NEVER HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR THOSE WORDS BEFORE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT?
SO PLEASE, JUST ACCEPT THEM.
PROFESSOR
JUST LIKE YOU I...
SHOW ME HOW REPLICAS CAN FIND A NEW WAY OF LIFE IN THIS WORLD.
AND IN THAT CASE ...
SHOW ME THAT "CHANCE".

WILL LIVE FACE TO FACE WITH MY PAST.
END

The Letter from the Town of Falling Snow

The sky was clear and blue. That morning, Jasper Cadogan squinted up towards the sky. But rather than clouds, all he could see was the shape of Eldrant, the floating replica island created by the New Order of Lorelei. A symbol of their attempts to destroy this world.

Within the Malkuth Intelligence Division, the facility was crowded with soldiers gathering information on how to approach the situation at Eldrant. But that's a different story, unrelated to the leisurely work of Jasper Cadogan.

Upon exiting the Intelligence Division security gate, he made his way towards his own office.

Jasper once worked alongside Jade the Necromancer in Fomicry research. Ever since research was discontinued, he's been the one in charge of managing information in regards to it. However, having been deemed a soldier who knew far too much, the higher ranks left him to this neglected post. Although the situation in and of itself never bothered him, to be stationed in such an out-of-the-way post as a nuisance left a bad taste in his mouth.

After entering his office, he hardly had the time to sit down before his men brought him some documents. Jasper took them with a shrug of his shoulders. Although there weren't very many, the fact remained that he couldn't leave a single page unturned, making for a rather tedious job. And yet none of them were of particular importance. Reports and financial statements, some mail--

Suddenly, an unfamiliar cream-colored envelope caught his eye. After inadvertently pulling the envelope from the pile, he quickly noticed the snowflake insignia printed beneath the postmark. This letter was sent from Keterburg. When he flipped the envelope over to check the sender, he found written in the top right-hand corner the name Jade Curtiss. Blinking curiously down at the envelope, he checked and doubled checked each letter one by one. There was no doubt about it. This letter was from Jade. And Jasper couldn't help but tilt his head in confusion at the strangeness of it all.

Jasper and Jade were old friends back from their days at the officer academy. But not once in his life had he ever received a letter from him. Although Jade had paid a visit a few days earlier to request information from the Intelligence Division, whether or not this would be some kind of letter of thanks or acknowledgement was unclear.

(Even so, for Jade to send a letter... it almost seems like a bad omen preceding a natural disaster...)

But then, there couldn't possibly be something worse than when the outer lands fell into the Qliphoth, right...? With a bitter smile, Jasper opened the envelope.

It seems I brought a fair amount of trouble to you the other day I know it was sudden, and if I've done anything to interfere with your work, you have my sincere apologies Although I've made an attempt to apologize, should you have any further grievances on my part, please relay them to his Imperial Majesty

Now then, I'm sure you must be surprised to see that I am in fact the one who sent you this letter I believe I've managed to surprise even myself at this rate However, as I believed it was appropriate to report to you the full circumstances of what has transpired, I decided to put pen to paper

Why don t we start from the conclusion The ones who stole the belongings of that disgusting fellow whose name I'd rather forgo writing were Oracle Knights belonging to the Order of Lorelei

You recall the story about Professor Gelda Neblilm, yes? She was the person for whom I began my Fomicry research The creation of Professor Nebilim's replica was what started all of this And the same holds true for this incident as well

The truth is, in a display of cockroach-like tenacity, that detestable fellow managed to survive (I'm sure you're pleased about that I find your open-mindedness commendable) Furthermore, it was around this time that he was unexpectedly reunited with the replica of Professor Nebilim Seeing as how he's an idiot, he took it upon himself to attempt to modify the unstable existence of the Professor's replica For this reason, he required the replica data that I constructed for Professor Nebilim That being said, the fool who followed after the New Order of Lorelei-- or rather, the idiot who was purported to be dead, couldn't afford to go and retrieve his belongings on his own Therefore, by allowing the Oracle Knights to do his dirty work, he was able to retrieve Professor Nebilim's replica data

I've handed the idiot over to the military police Soon, he should be brought to Grand Chokmah If you would like more details, please feel free to conduct an investigation of your own It won't be necessary to report your findings to me Personally, I would rather not have to deal with even one more hair on that man's head I'll leave the rest to you Also, as I'm sure the Emperor may wish to interject into the interrogation, I ask that you please deal with him appropriately

And furthermore, one last thing

Luke has been rather unlike his usual self as of late Not just his Majesty, but you spoke with him about something as well, yes? At this rate it seems as though none of my oldest friends have any confidence in me Such grief I'm forced to face every day ah, but I suppose my criminal record speaks for itself At any rate, seeing as Luke is not a very clever child, please don't let him worry you But I do appreciate your consideration for my regard Thank you It's just as one would expect from the "Good JC," isn't it?

Though it seems I've fallen a bit off topic, we'll soon be making our way into Eldrant. In order to finally settle things once and for all, I intend to confront the issue of Fomicry one more time. After you went to all the trouble of managing the neglected data for me, I'd like to make use of it. That's why I'd like to request your help once more. And no excuses, now. After all, unlike me, you're the "Good JC," aren't you?

To my dear friend, the Good Jasper Cadogan.

From the Evil Jade Curtiss.

From the town of falling snow, with regards.

With a sigh, Jasper drummed the edges of the cream-colored stationary with his fingertips. Indeed, it was a much unexpected letter. Though written in a manner that mirrored an official report of sorts, it seemed obvious that Jade put quite a bit of effort into sounding as superficially polite as possible... no, perhaps if this was the Jade from their years at the military academy, that would be the case. It looks like Jade really has changed— no, he's forced himself to change. Nonetheless, he can't help but wonder how Jade managed not to include any sarcasm, even in a letter.

"... ah, I suppose if that's how he is, then that's that."

Jasper muttered to himself, without slipping the letter into his desk drawer. If the 'Idiot" who survived that Jade was referring to really is Saphir, then as a member of the Intelligence Division, Jasper had better begin preparations for his arrival. There were also the necessary preparations to be made for his interment, as well as the inevitable disparagement from Saphir. And of course, preparing for the unprecedented interference from his Majesty. After all, when you decide to associate with Jade, you may as well enlist yourself in a trade fair for eccentrics.

But if Jade can change the way he thinks and feels about Fomicry, then Jasper can handle it.

(Thank you, Luke.)

And while looking out the window up at the clear blue sky, Jasper thanked the red-haired replica who he knew was still fighting under that same sky.

-End-